



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
200 Fourth Street SW • Federal Building, Room 210 • Huron, SD 57350
Phone: (605) 352-1100 or 1-800-670-6553 • Fax: (605) 352-1146 • TDD: (605) 352-1147 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd>

FOR IMMEDIATED RELEASE

**INFORMATION CONTACT:
Tammi Schone (605) 352-1102**

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK ANNOUNCES \$140 MILLION FOR 14 COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECTS IN RURAL AREAS

Projects Funded Include Hospitals, Schools, and Fire Departments in 11 States

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the selection of \$140.4 million in community facilities projects that are being funded with federal funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. USDA has announced \$477.6 million in Recovery Act funding for community facility projects to date.

“The Recovery Act funds we are announcing today further demonstrate the Obama Administration’s unyielding efforts to improve the quality of life for rural residents by ensuring that rural communities benefit from quality public facilities such as hospitals, courthouses, and health centers,” Vilsack said.

For example, the Dillon County School Facilities Corporation in eastern South Carolina has been selected to receive a \$35.8 million loan and a \$4 million grant to improve education services in three school districts in Dillon County. Recovery Act funds will be used to construct two new schools and renovate two existing school facilities in the persistent poverty county.

In Pikeville, Ky., the Pikeville Medical Center, Inc. has been selected to receive a \$44.6 million loan to construct a new 112,800 square foot medical office building and adjacent parking garage. The new facility will allow Pikeville Medical Center to better serve its patients through centralized and improved access to patient services and physician offices. The new parking garage will provide closer and easier proximity to medical and hospital services for all patients, especially for those with critical health care needs.

In addition to the \$140.4 million that USDA Rural Development is providing to fund the 14 projects announced today, recipients will combine that funding with \$56 million from other sources. Funding of each loan and grant recipient is contingent upon meeting the conditions of the agreement. Below is a complete list of the selected recipients:

South Dakota

- **Town of Ward; \$50,000 loan, \$150,000 grant**

The funding announced today is being provided through USDA Rural Development’s Community Facilities program, which helps finance essential community facilities for public use in rural areas.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800)795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

These facilities include childcare centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation. Through this program, USDA ensures that such facilities are available to all rural residents. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations and federally recognized Indian tribes. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. It is designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

More information about USDA's Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government's efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

USDA Rural Development has eight offices in the state that assist rural communities. Office locations include a state office in Huron, along with area offices in Aberdeen, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Yankton.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

USDA